

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01

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O P 311000Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4834

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0365

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: MEETING WITH FATHER VAGNI

1. MACFARLANE, STEINER AND LOVING MET MORNING OF MAY 31 WITH PERE VAGNI WHO HAD COME TO BUJUMBURA ON MISSION BUSINESS. BISHOP CATARZI DISCOVERED HE DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE VALID BURUNDI VISA AND COULD NOT MAKE TRIP.

2. MARFARLANE AND STEINER SHARE LOVING'S IMPRESSION THAT VAGNI IS EFFECTIVE POTENTIAL INTERMEDIARY AND JOIN IN RECOMMENDING THAT EFFORT BE PURSUED THROUGH VAGNI.

3. VAGNI PLANS TO DEPART UVIRA MORNING OF JUNE 02 WTH TWO TRUCKS CARRYING MISSION SUPPLIES TO FIZI. HE PLANS RETURN UVIRA JUNE 3 OR 4.

4. UNLESS ADDRESSEES PERCEIVE OBJECTION, VAGNI WILL LAUNCH
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INQUIRIES AMONG ITALIAN PRIESTS ESPECIALLY AT FIZI BUT ALSO AT

INTERVENING MISSION STATIONS. THESE PRIESTS WILL IN TURN PASS WORD AMONG THEIR CONGREGATIONS, ESPECIALLY ANY PEOPLE THAT LOCAL PRIESTS THINK MAY HAVE FAMILY OR OTHER CONTACTS IN AREAS OUTSIDE EFFECTIVE GOZ CONTROL. IF OBJECTION PERCEIVED, PLEASE NOTIFY BUJUMBURA BEFORE 1200 ZULU ON JUNE 01.

5. IN HIS INQUIRIES VAGNI WILL INDICATE THAT STEINER IS CURRENTLY IN BUJUMBURA AS REPRESENTATIVE OF KIDNAPPED VICTIMS' FAMILIES AND DESIRES TO RECEIVE ASSURANCES ON HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THREE HOSTAGES. STEINER ALSO DESIRE DELIVER MEDICAL SUPPLIES AS SUGGESTED BY BARBARA SMUTS FOR THOSE STILL HELD.

6. COMMENT: WISH TO STRESS THAT VAGNI, WHO FREQUENTLY TRAVELS TO MISSIONS ALONG LAKESHORE, MAKING THIS TRIP ANYWAY ON MISSION BUSINESS. HE WILL BE CARRYING NO RPT NO WRITTEN MATERIAL RELATING TO HIS ROLE AS INFORMAL INTERMEDIARY. END COMMENT.

7. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON PARALLEL EFFORT THAT STEINER AND BUJUMBURA EMBOFF WILL BE MAKING WITH ITALIAN PRIESTS IN BURUNDI AT RUMONGE AND KIGWENA.
MARK

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